

**EDUCARE OF WEST  
DUPAGE IS**

- **a Partnership** where private dollars and public funding work together to create a high-quality, sustainable early education program for those children and families who need it most.
- **a Place** in West Chicago where the youngest children of working low-income families can learn and be cared for in a state-of-the-art building that provides and promotes the highest quality of early education.
- **a Program** where those children ages birth to five most at risk for school failure are given full-day, full-year individualized care and attention by highly educated teachers in small classroom settings.
- **a Platform for Change** a leader in bridging the gap between what we know and what we do in early childhood care and education. and a catalyst to drive broader policy and system change in Illinois and nationally.



## Pritzker Announces \$2 Million Pledge

Chicago-area business leader and philanthropist J.B. Pritzker has recently announced a \$2 million pledge from The Children's Initiative: A Project of the J.B. and M.K. Pritzker



**J.B. Pritzker announces \$2 million Educare pledge.**

Family Foundation to Educare of West DuPage. This pledge, combined with generous gifts from The Gustafson Family Foundation, the McCormick Foundation, the Buffett Early Childhood Fund, West Chicago Elementary District #33, the Educare Replication Fund and state capital funding, brings the amount of money pledged to nearly \$8 million of the \$10 million goal for the construction and start-up of

the new Educare Center in West DuPage.

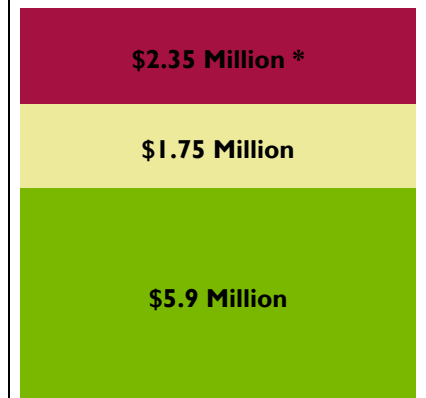
The Pritzker Foundation's commitment is payable upon Educare securing the remaining \$2 million in local financial support for this innovative project, which will significantly enhance early learning practices for infants, toddlers and preschoolers throughout the area.

In his remarks during a private meeting with DuPage businesses and community leaders at the Hotel Arista in Naperville, J.B. emphasized that "Educare of West DuPage will be a leader in bridging the gap between what we know and what we do in early childhood education and care." He added, "I have seen this model work across the country and am pleased to be a part of bringing this exciting project to West DuPage."

As the campaign continues, Educare will be reaching out to the

DuPage community for the final \$2 million to achieve its goal. Over the next several months we plan to meet with West Chicago and broader DuPage County area foundations, corporate leaders and individuals to seek their support for the project. A community education breakfast is also being scheduled for April in West Chicago.

### Educare Campaign Closer to Goal



- Community Funding Need
- Anticipated Dollars
- Committed Dollars

\* Including Endowment

**Visit our Website at:**

[www.educareofwestdupage.org](http://www.educareofwestdupage.org)

# National Network Making a Difference



*"It takes adults putting egos aside, putting historical differences aside, and saying, 'Let's figure out a better way to do it.'"*

*"This – Educare – is a better way to do it and it's starting to become a real national model."*

**Secretary of Education  
Arne Duncan  
at the Educare of  
Oklahoma City  
Ground Breaking**

Educare of West DuPage is part of the Bounce Learning Network, a national network of highest quality early childhood centers that combine the best of Head Start, child care, preschool and family supports to help at-risk children ages birth to five grow up eager to learn and ready for school.

The Bounce Learning Network of Educare Centers aims to take the nation's best early childhood research from the lab to the classroom through the development of a network of excellence. More than just physical spaces where children receive exceptional early education and care, the centers are also catalysts for change that spark local and national discussions about

investing in young children and improving public policy.

The Network is growing, as is its influence on national

praised Educare's public-private model and reinforced the need to stop playing what he called "the catch up game." Said Secretary Duncan, "Our



and state policy around very early education and care. At the recent opening of the Oklahoma City Educare Center, US Secretary of Education Arne Duncan was the featured speaker. He

colleges have to get better, our high schools have to get better, our middle and elementary schools have to get better, but where does it all start? It starts here with early childhood education."

## Educare Impacts Local School District



West Chicago Elementary District 33 Superintendent Ed Lemman recently articulated why he is such a strong advocate of the Educare Center and how he sees its impact on the entire West Chicago School system. "Educare will allow us to provide our most at-

risk infants, toddlers, and preschoolers with a level of intensive service that we could never provide alone. That means that these children will come to our kindergartens ready to engage in a challenging curriculum, rather than needing expensive remedial attention from day one."

Early childhood Principal Sandy Warner echoed Dr. Lemman's enthusiasm. "Our

partnership with Educare will give the district's early childhood faculty extraordinary opportunities for professional development, and access to national experts in early childhood education that is almost unheard of for a program like ours. Our traditional part-day preschool program (which will continue in the district) is already benefitting from this partnership."

# Investing Strategically in Young Children



**Michael Birck, Chairman of Tellabs Inc., hosts DuPage event.**

On December 9, 2009 DuPage County leaders came together for a breakfast event hosted by Michael Birck, Chairman Tellabs, with featured speaker J.B. Pritzker. The DuPage Children’s Museum, Positive Parenting DuPage, the DuPage Community Foundation and Educare of West DuPage partnered for the event along with Choose DuPage, the DuPage Regional Office of Education and the DuPage Workforce Board.

The purpose of the event was to focus on the needs of young, low income, at-risk children in

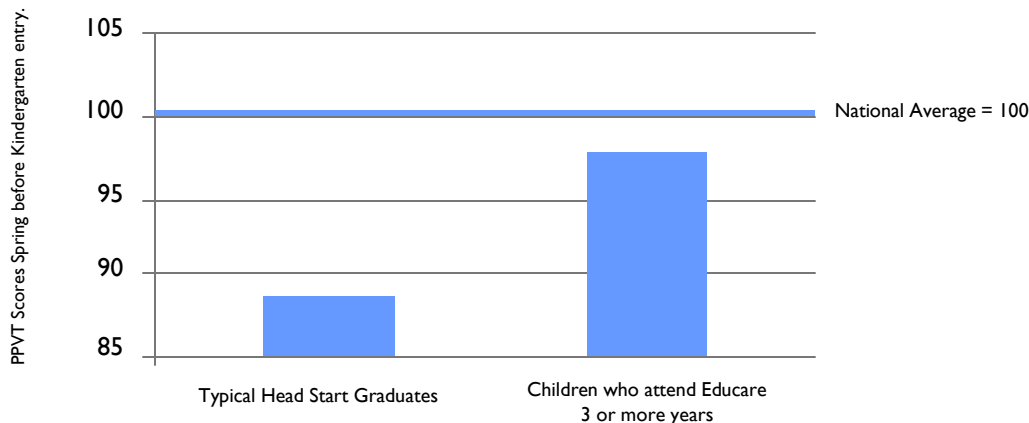
DuPage County. During his remarks Pritzker highlighted the research of Nobel Prize winner and Professor of Economics at the University of Chicago, James Heckman. Dr. Heckman’s research has focused on a formula for success that begins with investing in the youngest members of our society. He shows that investing in first years of life has the greatest potential for long-term economic benefits for both the children and the community as a whole. This research is highlighted in the excellent website [www.heckmanequation.org](http://www.heckmanequation.org).

*Children who attend Educare for three or more years are as ready for kindergarten as their middle class peers.*

## Research Confirms Educare Effectiveness

The most recent research results from the first five operational Educare centers were released at the recent Bounce Learning Network meeting in Miami. The results from two years of following children in these centers confirms what was found in earlier research at the Chicago and Omaha-North sites: children who attend Educare for three or more years are as ready for kindergarten as a typical middle class child. The pattern of results found—children who enrolled in Educare before age two performed best on measures of vocabulary, concept development and early literacy—underscores the importance of starting early to support disadvantaged children and their families.

**Educare is closing the gap:** Children who attend Educare at least three years have a vocabulary scores very near the national average as they enter Kindergarten.



## Conference Brings National Experts to DuPage County

Through the generous support of the McCormick Foundation, Educare of West DuPage partnered with Positive Parenting DuPage and Erikson Institute to sponsor a January conference on meeting the needs of infants, toddlers and preschoolers who speak a language other than English at home. Sixty professionals from school districts, early education programs and home visiting programs across the western suburbs attended the conference, which Educare of West DuPage Board Chair Theresa Hawley called “a down payment on Educare’s promise to bring exceptional professional de-

velopment opportunities to DuPage County.”

Nationally renowned experts Wendy Jones of Georgetown University and Linda Espinosa of the University of Missouri-Columbia spoke about the latest research on these children’s development, including some surprising findings on just how capable very young children are of learning more than one language at a time, and the substantial



**Linda Espinosa, University of Missouri-Columbia, at the January conference.**

cognitive benefits of bilingualism. Their presentations confirmed Educare of West DuPage’s plans to provide a fully bilingual curriculum.

Other speakers from Erikson Institute, Lifelink, Head Start and Erie Neighborhood House shared specific strategies for supporting young Dual Language Learners in the classroom and through home visiting programs.